

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

May 4, 2006

FIFTEEN MONTH SENTENCE OF IMPRISONMENT FOR SOCIAL SECURITY AND FOOD STAMP FRAUD

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 3, 2006, **YVONNE R. TISON**, age 38 of 412 West South, Harrisburg, Illinois, received a fifteen month term of imprisonment following her conviction for mail fraud and making false statements to the Social Security Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture. **TISON** was also ordered to make restitution to the Social Security Administration and the Illinois Department of Public Aid Food Stamp Program in the total amount of \$38,101. Following release from imprisonment, **TISON** will serve a three year term of supervised release. **TISON'S** request for a sentence of probation was rejected.

TISON pleaded guilty to the charges on January 23, 2006.

The indictment alleged that beginning in or about January, 1999, and continuing through in or about October, 2003, **TISON** defrauded the Social Security Administration in connection with her receipt of SSI benefits as representative payee for her minor disabled child. During that time, **TISON** failed to disclose to the SSA that her child was no longer residing with her, and she used her disabled child's SSI money for her own purposes. **TISON** similarly told the federally funded food stamp program that her child resided with her when he did not.

The investigation was conducted by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General and the Illinois Department of Public Aid, Office of Inspector General, Bureau of Investigations. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.

The Social Security Administration (SSA), Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Fraud Hotline provides an avenue for reporting fraud, waste, and abuse within SSA's programs and operations. The SSA OIG Fraud Hotline receives allegations by telephone, regular mail, and facsimile.

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